

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

Volume 25 Issue 2

February 2017

## THE VOICE OF GOD IN THE SOUND OF SILENCE

My Dear Parishioners,

So far it has been a fairly mild and warm winter of which I am sure no one is complaining. Advent was a thoughtful and interesting liturgical season, accompanied with good attendance and a presentation of 'God Came Near.' This was a program in which we had hopes of providing some insight into just what it means and how important it is to prepare our hearts and mind for the coming of the Lord. God came near was based upon how, on a still winters' night, the sound of silence was penetrated by the cry of a newborn baby as if announcing God had arrived.

Although God Came Near was attended by few, some found it interesting and helpful while other expressed a deeper desire to continue on with our courses in prayer and meditation. So many of you have experienced the sound of silence found in the practice of meditation beneficial to your spiritual well-being and Fr. Brad and I have been delighted in the reception we have found regarding peoples interest in meditation.

*Continued next column*



### CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

*Sunday*  
*Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 a.m.*  
*Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.*  
*Tuesday—11:30 a.m.*

**NURSERY AVAILABLE**  
*9:30 - 11:30 a.m.*

**OFFICE HOURS**  
*Mon. thru Fri. - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

Parish Office 781-335-2030  
Rector 781-974-7392

E- Mail:  
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:  
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Harold G. Birkenhead, Rector  
The Rev. Brad Hultman, Asst. Priest  
Casey Hannan, Organist & Choirmaster  
Peg Driscoll, Secretary  
Bob Thomas, Sexton  
Brian Smith, Warden  
Steve Williams, Warden

Although Brad and I have been meditating for a while, we are far from experts in the field of this ancient Christian practice, and you heard me right, "the ancient Christian practice of meditation.' I would readily agree that meditation more than likely derived in religions of the East, but we have to remember ancient Judaism was in fact influenced by the practices of those religions and Christianity was born from Judaism and therefore, carried on with its practice until somehow meditation became the exclusive practice of the monastics. Fr. Brad and I have found the practice of meditation or the silence found by this inward reflection, as the time when we listen to God as opposed to speaking to God. Meditation is also a practice that can and does change ones perception regarding our own personal inward spiritual growth and our relationship to God. Beginning in February, Fr. Brad will be continuing his Sunday morning course on meditation and prayer and beginning on Thursday morning, February 9 and every Thursday thereafter, we will have 10am morning prayer incorporating a short meditation.

We hope you will be able to join us at one or both and listen as we search for the voice of God found in the silence of meditation and reflection.

Blessings,  
Fr. Harry

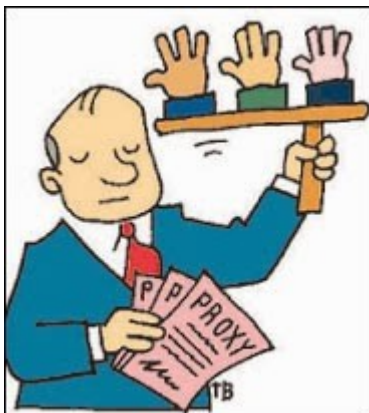


## 2016 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting for 2016 will be held on Sunday, February 5. After the 10am service, there will be a pot luck brunch, followed by the annual meeting.

If you have prepared a report to be included in the annual report, please have it into the office by Sunday, January 29, so it can be included for everyone's review.

Least we forget that it is winter in New England or if you know you will be unable to attend the meeting, please complete a proxy ballot, so the meeting can be completed as scheduled. A proxy ballot is included in this newsletter. It is also available on the "News and Events" tab on the website. Printed copies can also be found on the table in front of the office.



## Stewardship

If you haven't received a 2017 pledge card or would like to have envelopes, please contact the church office. If you requested envelopes for the new year and don't have them yet, they're in the Narthex for you to pick up.

2016 giving statements are also ready for pick up in the Narthex..



## Home Communion

If you or a relative are unable to get to church to celebrate the Eucharist, please call the office at 781.335.2030 to schedule a Home Communion with Fr. Harry or Fr. Brad at your convenience, days or evenings.

## Vestry

There will be no Vestry meeting in February. The next Vestry meeting will be **Wednesday, March 15, 2017** at 7:30 pm following a service of Compline at 7:00 pm.

## Is vs. Ought

The third installment on personal and social relationships will be continued in the February edition of Holy Happenings.

Adult Education begins Sunday, February 12, following the 10 o'clock service.

The theme is "Devotional Meditation: Meditating on God with Love."

This meditational practice is ancient and increases both our love for God and on awareness that every action in life can be an offering to God.

Each class will involve short devotional readings, a discussion and a 10 minute meditation.

If you have any questions, please speak to me.

God's Blessings,

Fr. Brad



## Sunday Morning Adult Study

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

The deadline for **MARCH 2017** Holy Happenings will be **Thursday, February 16**. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent via email to the church office. Thank you.

**Coffee Hour Hosts  
Needed**

Please sign up on the Coffee Hour sheet in the Asher-Stoddard Hall. If you have any questions, please call Ed Muller at 781-337-7165.

**MID-WEEK  
SERVICES**

Most Tuesdays at 11:30, a quiet Eucharist is celebrated, followed by light refreshments, good conversation and better company.

As we continue to learn more about meditation, morning prayer, including some quiet time for meditation, will held on Thursdays at 10, starting on February 9.

Everyone is welcome to participate in either or both services. Feel free to bring a friend.

**Food First  
Sunday**

Food First Sunday. will be **Sunday, February 5**. The pantry would appreciate donations of whole grain cereals. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**As a Parish,  
We pray for:**

- Al
- Alexa & Mat Frechette
- Annie C.
- Ari
- Arianna
- Barbara Gill
- Bishop Alan Gates
- Carol Ruggiero
- Christine
- Christine Tempesta
- Corinne
- Devin
- Ellie Gowen
- Emily
- Eric
- Geraldine
- Harry Maynard
- Hayes Family
- Hazel Brunelle
- Hunter Luis & Family
- Jack Crandall
- Jeffe
- Jim Murphy
- John & Billie Greene
- Laura & Family
- Lucille Olson
- Marion
- Marj
- Michael
- Myrtle Perkins
- Paige
- Peter
- Phil Stephan
- Ray Thorne
- Rich G.
- Rick
- Rocky
- Sofia
- Thom & Maureen Shortt
- Zaporetsky Family



**Wardens' Report**

It's always hard to believe how fast time seems to fly by. Here we are at the end of another year and as we put together our Wardens' Annual Summary/Report for the upcoming Annual Meeting, we reflect on how so blessed we are here at the Church of the Holy Nativity. Much has been accomplished this past year with the use of "Many Hands". We can all take pride in the property itself, along with everyone involved in ministries in and around this church. At the Annual Meeting, we will revisit these moments to see just how fortunate we are in all that took place, certainly many people to thank. As we approach the new year, we first want to say a big thanks to those members of the Vestry who are rotating off due to the conclusion of their 3-year terms. It has been a pleasure to serve and work with Ron Russo, Nancy Munise and Kyle Morgan, so on behalf of the parish, thank you for your dedication.

The Christmas Eve and Day services here were wonderful as always and we want to thank all who were involved from the Choir to the Youth, Lay Readers, Ushers, Altar Guild and of course to Fr. Harry and Fr. Brad. When our faith community comes together here, great things happen. Always continued thanks to Peg Driscoll, Secretary, and Bob, our Sexton, for all they do during the year. We will recap in our annual report and look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on Feb 5th. It has been our honor and pleasure to serve as your Wardens this past year and appreciate your support.

God's Peace Always,  
Your Wardens,  
Brian Smith & Steve Williams

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

Church of the Holy Nativity  
8 Nevin Road  
Weymouth, MA 02190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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<p><b>MAILED</b> January 23, 2017</p>
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<p><b>Important Dates</b></p> <p><b>February 5 Annual Meeting</b></p> <p><b>February 12 Adult Education on Meditation Begins</b></p> <p><b>February 16 Holy Happenings arti- cles due</b></p>
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<p><b>Mission Statement</b></p> <p>The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member's personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God's message of love and forgiveness.</p>
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<p><b>Important Dates</b></p> <p><b>February 20 Presidents' Day Office Closed</b></p> <p><b>February 26 Book Sale</b></p> <p><b>February 28 Shrove Tuesday</b></p>
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